

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE

March 2015

PROSPECTUS FOR
GENETICALLY MODIFIED, GLYPHOSATE RESISTANT SOYBEANS AND WHEAT
FOR
2015 and 2016 GROWING SEASONS
FOR 2 PARCELS
ON
MIDEWIN NATIONAL TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
WILL COUNTY
ILLINOIS

PARCEL I: Tract Nos. 17, 20, 22, 42, 44, 45, 46, 54 and 79

PARCEL II: Tract Nos. 21, 28, 32, 33, 34, 43, 49, 51, 52, 60, 83 and 213

BID OPENING DATE: APRIL 9, 2015

OPENING TIME: 2:00 PM

SUBMIT BIDS TO: PRAIRIE SUPERVISOR
MIDEWIN NATIONAL TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
30239 SOUTH STATE ROUTE 53
WILMINGTON, IL 60481

LIMITING CONDITIONS

THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS PROSPECTUS WAS TAKEN FROM THE BEST AVAILABLE INFORMATION. THE SOURCES ARE CONSIDERED RELIABLE BUT NO WARRANTY OF THE ACCURACY THEREOF IS MADE. ALL BIDDERS ARE EXPECTED TO MAKE THEIR OWN INVESTIGATION AS TO THE FACTS ABOUT THE AREAS, ACRES, AND ESTIMATES OF CROP PRODUCTION CAPABILITIES/REVENUES WITHOUT REFERENCE TO ANYTHING INDICATED IN THIS PROSPECTUS. DUE TO THE UNCERTAINTY OF INCLEMENT WEATHER AND GROUND CONDITIONS, ACCESS TO THESE AREAS FOR SOME OR ALL OF THE TRACTS AVAILABLE FOR BID MAY BE INACCESSIBLE OR UNREACHABLE FOR INSPECTION. THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE PROSPECTUS WILL BE INCORPORATED AND MADE PART OF THE ACTUAL SPECIAL USE PERMIT.

PROSPECTUS

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this prospectus is to solicit bidders interested in the crop production for the cultivation and harvest of genetically modified, glyphosate resistant soybeans and wheat using the no till method on two parcels. Parcel 1 is approximately 1,041 acres and Parcel 2 is approximately 847 acres. This prospectus covers two growing seasons, 2015 and 2016, within the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie.

Parcel 1 consists of the following tracts available for crop production of genetically modified, glyphosate resistant soybeans and wheat using the no till method during the 2015 and 2016 growing seasons.

- Tract 17 (fields 4 and 5)
- Tract 20 (fields 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6)
- Tract 22 (fields 1, 2, and 3)
- Tract 42 (fields 1, 2, 3 and 4)
- Tract 44 (fields 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 7)
- Tract 45 (fields 1, 2 and 3)
- Tract 46 (fields 1 and 2)
- Tract 54 (fields 3 and 4)
- Tract 79 (fields 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8)

Parcel 2 consists of the following tracts available for crop production of genetically modified, glyphosate resistant soybeans and wheat using the no till method during the 2015 and 2016 growing seasons.

- Tract 21 (field 1)
- Tract 28 (fields 2, 3, 4 and 5)
- Tract 32 (fields 1 and 2)
- Tract 33 (fields 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5)
- Tract 34 (fields 2 and 3)
- Tract 43 (fields 1, 2 and 3)
- Tract 49 (fields 2 and 3)
- Tract 51 (fields 1 and 2)
- Tract 52 (fields 1 and 2)
- Tract 60 (fields 2, 3, 5 and 7)
- Tract 83 (field 2 and 4)
- Tract 213 (field 1)

BID PROCEDURE

Lump sum sealed bids subject to terms and conditions set forth in this prospectus will be received by the Prairie Supervisor, Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie, 30239 South State Route 53, Wilmington, IL 60481 until **2:00 PM CDT, April 9, 2015** to cultivate and harvest genetically modified, glyphosate resistant, soybean and wheat with the no till method on all the Tracts listed above. (See attached map.) The bid opening will open to the public; bidders will be notified with the results. **Each bid must be accompanied by a Cashier's Check or Money Order made out to the USDA Forest Service in the amount of Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00).** Bidders may bid on either one or both of the parcels. Checks or Money Orders will be returned to all unsuccessful bidders. The deposit will be applied to the fee of the high bidder. If the high bidder cannot fulfill the terms of the Special Use Permit, the bid deposit will be forfeited and the prospectus reissued for bid. A Bill of Collection and Special Use Permit will be transmitted to the successful bidder to submit payment and sign the Special Use Permit.

The bid will be lump sum for two growing seasons, however a Payment for one half of the total bid amount will be due prior to issuing the permit. A payment for the second half of the bid amount will be due March 15, 2016. After payment is received, the Special Use Permit will be approved and issued. No activities will be permitted on any of the sites until payment is received and the Special Use Permit is approved and signed.

The Forest Service reserves the right to extend the date for receiving bids, to reject any or all bids, and to waive any technical defects.

GENERAL INFORMATION

OWNERSHIP

All facilities and land covered by this prospectus are owned by the United States and administered by the Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. **All bidders should make their own investigation as to the facts about the areas, acres, and estimates of crop production capabilities/revenues without reference to anything indicated in this prospectus.** Prospective bidders are urged to consult with Jeff Martina at (815) 423-6370, to discuss permit conditions, schedule an inspection of the sites, and acquire other pertinent information.

Any oral statement by any representative of the Forest Service, modifying or changing any condition of this prospectus is an expression of opinion only, and confers no right to the bidder.

The Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie is approximately five miles north of the City of Wilmington, Illinois, and twelve miles south of the City of Joliet, Illinois. State route 53 provides access to this site.

The tracts being offered are part of many tracts identified within the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie for agricultural activities. Soils and physical features of the tracts being offered indicate that the current use of this land would be for crop production. These tracts have been used for these purposes in the past.

AREA DESCRIPTION

Parcel 1 - This offering includes (9) tracts (an estimated 1,041 acres) suitable for crop production of glyphosate resistant soybeans and wheat described as follows:

Tract No. 17 (fields 4 and 5) of the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie – This site contains an estimated 32 acres suitable for crop production purposes. This tract is located in Township 34 North, Range 10 East, Section 31 of Will County, Illinois. During most of the past 20 years, this site has been used for the production of corn, wheat and soybeans.

Tract No. 20 (fields 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6) of the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie – This site contains an estimated 338 acres suitable for crop production purposes. This tract is located in Township 34 North, Range 10 East, Section 32 of Will County in Illinois. During most of the last 20 years, this site has been used for the production of corn, wheat and soybeans.

Tract No. 22 (fields 1, 2 and 3) of the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie – This site contains an estimated 32 acres suitable for crop production purposes. This tract is located in Township 34 North, Range 10 East, Section 32 of Will County, Illinois. These sites have been used for the production of corn, wheat and soybeans.

Tract No. 42 (fields 1, 2, 3 and 4) of the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie – This site contains an estimated 74 acres suitable for crop production purposes. This tract is located in Township 33 North, Range 10 East, Section 3 of Will County, Illinois. This site has been used for the production of corn, wheat and soybeans.

Tract No. 44 (fields 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 7) of the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie – This site contains an estimated 113 acres suitable for crop production purposes. This tract is located in Township 33 North, Range 10 East, Sections 1, 2 and Township 34, Range 10 East, Section 36, of Will County, Illinois. This site has been used for the production of corn, wheat and soybeans.

Tract No. 45 (fields 1, 2 and 3) of the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie – This site contains an estimated 219 acres suitable for crop production purposes. This tract is located in Township 33 North, Range 10 East, Section 2 of Will County, Illinois. This site has been used for the production of corn, wheat and soybeans.

Tract No. 46 (fields 1 and 2) of the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie – This site contains an estimated 42 acres suitable for crop production purposes. This tract is located in Township 34 North, Range 10 East, Sections 35 and 36 of Will County, Illinois. This site has been used for the production of corn, wheat, and soybeans.

Tract No. 54 (fields 3 and 4) of the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie – This site contains an estimated 25 acres suitable for crop production purposes. This tract is located in Township 34 North, Range 10 East, Section 31 of Will County, Illinois. During most of the past 10 years, this site has been used for the production of corn, wheat and soybeans.

Tract No. 79 (fields 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8) of the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie – This site contains an estimated 166 acres suitable for crop production purposes. This tract is located in Township 33 North, Range 10 East, Section 4 of Will County, Illinois. This site has been used for the production of corn, wheat and soybeans.

Parcel 2 - This offering includes (12) tracts (an estimated 847 acres) suitable for crop production of glyphosate resistant soybeans and wheat described as follows:

Tract No. 21 (field 1) of the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie – This site contains an estimated 16 acres suitable for crop production purposes. This tract is located in Township 33 North, Range 10 East, Section 9 of Will County, Illinois. This site has been used for the production of corn, wheat and soybeans.

Tract No. 28 (fields 2, 3, 4 and 5) of the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie – This site contains an estimated 90 acres suitable for crop production purposes. This tract is located in the Township 33 North, Range 10 East, Sections 8 and 9 of Will County Illinois. This site has been used for the production of corn, wheat and soybeans.

Tract No. 32 (fields 1 and 2) of the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie – This site contains an estimated 124 acres suitable for crop production purposes. This tract is located in Township 33 North, Range 10 East, Section 9 and 16 of Will County, Illinois. This site has been used for the production of corn, wheat and soybeans.

Tract No. 33 (fields 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5) of the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie – This site contains an estimated 152 acres suitable for crop production purposes. This tract is located in Township 33 North, Range 10 East, Section 9 of Will County, Illinois. This site has been used for the production of corn, wheat and soybeans.

Tract 34 (fields 2 and 3) of the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie – This site contains an estimated 31 acres suitable for crop production purposes. This tract is located in Township T33N, Range 10East, Section 16. **(It will be the responsibility of the lessee to obtain access to these fields from the Will County landfill.)**

Tract 43 (fields 1, 2 and 3) of the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie – This site contains an estimated 83 acres suitable for crop production purposes. This tract is located in Township 33 North, Range 10 East, Section 11 of Will County, Illinois. This site has been used for the production of corn, wheat and soybeans.

Tract No. 49 (fields 2 and 3) of the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie – This site contains an estimated 114 acres suitable for crop production purposes. This tract is located in Township 33 North, Range 10 East, Section 10 of Will County, Illinois. This site has been used for the production of corn, wheat and soybeans.

Tract No. 51 (fields 1 and 2) of the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie – This site contains an estimated 73 acres suitable for crop production purposes. This tract is located in Township 33 North, Range 10 East, Section 11 of Will County, Illinois. This site has been used for the production of corn, wheat and soybeans.

Tract No. 52 (fields 1 and 2) of the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie – This site contains an estimated 67 acres suitable for crop production purposes. This tract is located in Township 33 North, Range 10 East, Sections 3 and 10 of Will County, Illinois. This site has been used for the production of corn, wheat and soybeans.

Tract No. 60 (fields 2, 3, 5 and 7) of the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie – This site contains an estimated 73 acres suitable for crop production purposes. This tract is located in Township 33 North, Range 10 East, Sections 9, 10, 15, and 16 of Will County, Illinois. This site has been used for the production of corn, wheat and soybeans.

Tract No. 83 (fields 2 and 4) of the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie – This site contains an estimated 13 acres suitable for crop production purposes. This tract is located in Township 33 North, Range 9 East, Section 16 of Will County, Illinois. This site has been used for the production of corn, wheat and soybeans.

Tract No. 213 (field 1) of the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie – This site contains an estimated 11 acres suitable for crop production purposes. This tract is located in Township 33 North, Range 9 East, Section 12 of will County, Illinois. This site has been used for the production of corn, wheat and soybeans.

OFFERING

The offering involved in this prospectus is exclusive authorization to cultivate and harvest crops of genetically modified, glyphosate resistant soybeans and wheat on two parcels, with Parcel 1 consisting of an estimated 1,041 acres and Parcel 2 consisting of an estimated 847 acres, during the 2015 and 2016 growing seasons using the no till method on all of the offered parcels to begin on or about April 9, 2015. The offering for cultivation and harvesting will run until December 31, 2016. The high bidder will be awarded this exclusive authorization through the issuance of a Special Use Permit. Application of pesticides is limited to only the approved herbicides identified in the National Environmental Policy decision document for Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie. No aerial application is approved. The special use permit authorized to the highest bidder may be extended for another two years at the discretion of the prairie supervisor. **All bidders are expected to make their own investigation as to the facts about the areas, acres, and estimates of crop production capabilities/revenues without reference to anything indicated in this prospectus.**

TYPES OF SPECIAL USE PERMIT

A Special Use Permit for April 9, 2015 through December 31, 2016 will be issued to the successful bidder. The Special Use Permit may be extended for one time only or until December 2018 at the discretion of the Prairie Supervisor.

PERMIT AWARD

Bids will be judged on the monetary return to the United States only. It is assumed that all bidders will comply with the terms of the Special Use Permit as well as instructions specified in the spill plan for glyphosate.